

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 18 and 19 to read as follows. Note that all claims currently pending in this application, including those presently being amended, have been reproduced below.

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing apparatus comprising:

- a) input means for inputting data;
- b) encoding means for compression-encoding the data;
- c) first packetizing means for packetizing the data encoded by said encoding means into a first data train on a basis of a first data length, ~~said first packetizing means controlling the first data length in accordance with at least a second data length; and~~

C1 d) second packetizing means for packetizing the first data train generated by said first packetizing means into a second data train, ~~on a basis of the second data length~~

wherein the second data train has a corresponding predetermined fixed payload length, and

wherein the first data length is determined in accordance with at least the predetermined fixed payload length corresponding to the second data train.

2. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means compression-encodes the data on a basis of a predetermined data length, and said control means controls the first data length in accordance with the predetermined encoding data length and the second data length.

3. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said control means controls the first data length to have a value being equal to N (N : integer) times the predetermined encoding data length and near to a value not exceeding L (L : integer) times the second data length.

4. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data is audio data.

5. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

reference time information generation means for generating reference time information; and

C | time management information generation means for generating time management information representative of an input time of the data to said input means, in accordance with the reference time information,

wherein said first packetizing means adds the time management information to the first data train based upon a first period, and said second packetizing means adds the reference time information to the second data train based upon a second period.

6. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control means controls the first data length in accordance with the time management information.

7. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the reference time information, is PCR of MPEG specifications and the time management information is PTS of MPEG standard.

8. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control means controls the first data length to maximize the predetermined encoding data length satisfying the first period and have a value being equal to a minimum common multiple of the predetermined encoding data length and the second data length or being equal to N (N: integer) times the predetermined encoding data length and near to a value not exceeding L (L: integer) times the second data length.

9. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said encoding means can change a compression factor.

10. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second packetizing means adds, if necessary, redundant data to form the second data train.

11. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

image data input means for inputting image data;

image data encoding means for compression-encoding the image data; and

third packetizing means for packetizing the image data encoded by said encoding means on a basis of a third data length,

wherein said second packetizing means packetizes the third data train generated by said third packetizing means on a basis of the second data length.

12. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said image data encoding means compression-encodes the image data in conformity with MPEG.

13. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a video camera for outputting the data and the image data.

C | 14. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising transmission means for transmitting the second data train.

15. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising decoding means for decoding the second data train transmitted by said transmission means.

16. (Previously Presented) A data processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising display means for displaying the image data decoded by said decoding means.

17. (Previously Presented) A decoding apparatus for decoding the second data train transmitted by the data processing apparatus recited in claim 14.

18. (Currently Amended) A data processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting data;

compression-encoding the data;

packetizing the encoded data into a first data train on a basis of a first data length, ~~said packetizing step controlling the first data length in accordance with at least a second data length;~~ and

packetizing the generated first data train into a second data train, ~~on a basis of the second data length~~

wherein the second data train has a corresponding predetermined fixed payload length, and

wherein the first data length is determined in accordance with at least the predetermined fixed payload length corresponding to the second data train.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing an image processing program, the program comprising:

an input step of inputting data;

an encoding step of compression-encoding the data;

a first packetizing step of packetizing the data encoded in said encoding step into a first data train on a basis of a first data length, ~~said first packetizing step controlling the first data length in accordance with at least a second data length; and~~

a second packetizing step of packetizing the first data train generated in said first packetizing step into a second data train, ~~on a basis of the second data length~~

wherein the second data train has a corresponding predetermined fixed payload length, and

wherein the first data length is determined in accordance with at least the predetermined fixed payload length corresponding to the second data train.

20. (Previously Presented) A decoding apparatus for decoding the second data train obtained by the data processing method recited in claim 18.
